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Elections/Restrictions

The Applicant respectfully reasserts the traversal against the restriction requirement proposed by the Examiner. The Applicant confirms that Group I was elected to bring the traversal into compliance.

In addition, the Applicant respectfully traverses the assertion that the claimed process can be used to make other than a collimator "such as a photodetector, a photomultiplier, or a photonic crystal." As asserted by the Examiner. Again, the Applicant respectfully calls the Examiner's attention to Claim 1 which includes:

"assembling said first single-fiber fiber into a collimator group;"

The Applicant notes that the cited examples by the Examiner would not be produced using collimator tubes produced by the claimed method unless a Collimator was part and parcel of the photodetector, photomultiplier, or photonic crystal. In which case, the process would still be used to make a collimator, only the collimator would then be combined with other elements. The end result is the process is still making a collimator as claimed. This, therefore, is indicative of the process being specifically limited to make only collimator assembly as argued by the Applicant in the previous traversal. The Applicant, therefore, traverses the restriction and requests reconsideration.

Claim Rejections

Claims 5-6 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Sink (4853020).

Claims 5-6 rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph

Claims 5-6 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Regarding claim 5, the Examiner noted that the wording left an apparent inconsistency wherein a tube was made of powder. Of course the glass and tungsten powders are sintered into a solid glass tube and do not remain as powder after sintering, therefore the claim has been amended to remove the confusing language. Regarding claim 6, the Examiner correctly identified the claim language was missing the term "consisting of" appropriate for the group claim. Claim 6 has therefore been amended to add the proper terminology. The Applicant asserts that the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph have been corrected.

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Claims 1-16 rejected under 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Sink (4853020). The Applicant respectfully traverses the assertion that the cited Sink reference teaches on the manufacture of collimator elements as taught by the present invention. The channel-type electron multiplier taught by the Sink reference is directed and known for use in the mass-spectrometers and not for the direction of gamma rays towards a photodetector such as the collimator methodology taught by the present invention. As such, the precise control of collimator depth and grouping is not taught by the Sink reference nor rendered obvious. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection based on these discrepancies.

However, the Examiner noted that a claimed step of sintering the tungsten would define over the prior art. After consultation with the inventor, the Applicant was informed that contrary to the Examiner's intuition, the tungsten and glass powders can be sintered together to form a glass-tungsten matrix without the tungsten evaporating during the process. The end result is a unique glass tube with a tungsten matrix that is highly suitable for collimator applications. The Applicant has amended the independent claims accordingly to include a version of this recognized distinct limitation and therefore requests reconsideration by the Examiner.

With this response, it is respectfully submitted that all rejections and objections of record have been overcome and that the case is in condition for examination on the merits.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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